

Private Sector Vocational Technical Stakeholder Group

Tumwater, WA

May 17, 2004

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROVIDERS

Michael Barron, IAM Crest
Bob Crouch, CorVel Corporation
Fred Cutler, Cutler Counseling
Terry McCall, McCall Vocational Consulting
Jill Rosenthal, RES
April Poier, Grant and Associates
Jenny Gaffney, Gaffney Counseling & Consulting

ABSENT:

Craig Bock, Bock Consulting, Inc.
Dan McKinney, Vista Consulting Services
Scott Whitmer, Whitmer & Associates
Brad Ehrlich, Career Opportunities Group
Cathy Cottingham, People Systems, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Blake Maresh
Rich Wilson
Mary Kaempfe
Don Lane
Paulette Golden
Roy Plaeger-Brockway
Dave Erickson
Josh Morse

ABSENT:

Donna Spencer
Carol Kromer
Barb Lansford

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Kevin Johnson, Action Vocational Services
Patti Kacz, Intracorp

INTRODUCTIONS & REVIEW – Blake Maresh

Blake called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. He then asked all the committee members to review the minutes from the March 2004 meeting and share any comments or questions. Jenny Gaffney commented on the write-up of the presentation on the Oklahoma milestone system, saying that the minutes did not depict all the challenges of implementing the system. Blake indicated that they would review and edit the minutes accordingly.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Blake acknowledged the significant contributions of three VTSG members whose terms were completed with the May meeting. Bob Crouch was one of the first new members added to the VTSG when it revised its membership structure, and he completed a two-year term. Dan McKinney was a member of the group since its inception in 1997. (Unfortunately, a motor vehicle accident prevented Dan from attending, although fortunately he was not injured.) Another long-time member of the group representing IDEAS, Jenny Gaffney, has been appointed to another term.

Blake also introduced Josh Morse, who has accepted a full-time permanent position in HSA. Josh has been with the department for 15 months working on the Occupational Health Services Project in a half-time capacity, while also working in health services research at the UW. Josh will work on maintaining and enhancing the performance ratings.

BEST PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPING VOCATIONAL PLANS – Rich Wilson & Don Lane

Don and Rich led a discussion to capture ideas for best practices for VRCs to utilize when working with injured workers in the plan development process. Don and Rich will follow up with the group to finalize the identified ideas, and hopefully the information can be published on the vocational web site.

EARLY RETURN TO WORK INITIATIVE UPDATE – Rich Wilson

Rich followed up on a presentation from the previous meeting on this new initiative. Rich noted that "hard data" is not yet available, but that it appears there have been many successes in the early stages of the rollout. This initiative, to contact workers very early on in the life of their claim, will result in more workers returning to work earlier, and it will also refer those workers who need further services (EI, AWA) out to the private sector much sooner.

JUNE 4TH CONFERENCE – Rich Wilson

Rich reminded the committee of the vocational conference to be held at the SeaTac Doubletree on June 4th. The department is partnering with IARP and IDEAS for this conference. Registration forms are available on the vocational web site.

OUTCOME-BASED PAYMENT UPDATE – Blake Maresh

In April, Blake presented a proposal to pilot job placement activities using an outcome-based payment approach. L&I executive sponsors and management asked the team to rework its proposal to come up with something that can get more substantially at timeliness and quality issues of vocational services.

The June target date for implementation that had originally been proposed is no longer in effect. Instead, with his team, Blake's team is developing a new proposal that he will bring back to executives within the next six weeks or so. The new proposal will reflect more closely the aims of executives for the pilot. Part of the proposal will be to lay out the pilot's specifications, the requirements for implementing the pilot, and the proposed timeline to implement and evaluate the pilot.

VOC RULE MAKING UPDATE – Blake Maresh

Through the last half of 2003 and the first part of 2004, the department conducted a rulemaking process relating to the supervisory qualifications requirements. On March 31, 2004, the rule changes became final. The rules become effective on July 1, 2004.

A Provider Bulletin is going through internal stakeholdering this week and will be prepared for mailing, beginning next week. Providers can access the final rules as well as the Concise Explanatory Statement (CES) on the department's web site.

WC COMMISSION – Roy Plaeger-Brockway

Roy explained that the Governor's Office had established a workgroup of business and labor leaders to develop proposals for workers' compensation reform. The proposals would be based on areas of agreement between business and labor. The workgroup will be facilitated by the Policy Consensus Center, which is a partnership between the University of Washington and Washington State University. The Governor's Chief of Staff, Tom Fitzsimmons, will represent the Governor in the workgroup discussions.

NEXT STAGES OF RTW DISCUSSION – Jenny Gaffney

Jenny introduced the topic as a continuation of the conversation of the March and January meetings. In the previous meeting Scott Whitmer had led the group into going into more detail on RTW best practices in the early intervention and assessment phases. In this meeting Jenny did the same with plan development and plan implementation.

The results of that discussion will be incorporated into those from the March meeting and distilled into key messages or hints that will be published on the department's web site. Notes from the full session have been attached to these minutes as an addendum.*

AUDIENCE COMMENTS – Blake Maresh

With no comments from the audience, Blake adjourned the meeting at 1 pm.

***NOTE:** Notes from the "Next Stages of RTW Discussion" will be attached to these minutes as an addendum once they have been fully compiled.